

# Luke AFB may exist with WV communities

## Retired USAF Col. shares efforts with RCSC members

By Charlene Patti Bisson  
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Finding ways to survive the next round of base closures in 2005 is imperative to Luke Air Force Base.

Communities and citizens can support Luke AFB's efforts with one word — communication.

"Luke is a vital asset and encroachment is there. But we can live with it with open communication," said retired U.S. Air Force Col. Bob Dubsky at the Recreation Centers of Sun City Governing Board meeting held Nov. 20.

Luke AFB officials must constantly change with its surrounding communities to prevent complaints about noise and deadly accidents. In order to do this, Luke AFB officials must talk with stakeholders.

"We want to get along with everyone," Col. Dubsky said. "We need to know what is happening in the community."

Col. Dubsky explained why West Valley growth causes concern.

"Luke is about completely surrounded except its southern portion," the colonel said. "We had two plane crashes this year (at the Barry Goldwater Range) and bombs and parts have fallen from planes before."

Limiting flight patterns over schools is also important.

"There are about 40 new schools in Dysart and Litchfield," Col. Dubsky said. "We have to fly over schools but if we crash into a school, we are gone. We can't have that."

Col. Dubsky added open communication with developers helps Luke AFB tremendously.

"Developers are coming to us," he said.

Developers such as Pulte/Del Webb Corp. frequently meet with Luke AFB officials working to preserve the base's mission — training pilots and maintenance personnel.

Pulte will have new homes in Festival Ranch in Buckeye, west of Sun City Grand near

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the Sun Valley Parkway. Festival Ranch will provide houses for those 55 and older in late 2005.

"Luke Air Force Base is not going to be an issue to our knowledge," said Pulte/Del Webb spokeswoman Jacqueline Petroulakis. "We disclose all information about the Air Force base."

Luke Air Force Base Community Initiative Director Rusty Mitchell concurred.

"Pulte has been very good in discussing these things with us," Mr. Mitchell said.

Festival Ranch is near the LANTIRN check pattern where Luke AFB pilots fly that pattern as low as 100 feet

creating a lot of noise. Mr. Mitchell said base officials seek to move the pattern before Festival Ranch development occurs.

He said Luke AFB officials' main concern is Auxiliary Field 1, which is located in the north portion of Surprise on the border of Maricopa County land.

"Aux 1 is extremely important," Mr. Mitchell said. "Communication is critical and we are very optimistic with cooperation from Surprise and Maricopa County officials."

Surprise's general plan amendment is earmarking more compatible land use around the air field.

"Aux 1 area is where our new pilots first check out on the F-16 simulated flying incidents," Mr. Mitchell said.



Photo by Charlene Patti Bisson/Independent Newspapers

**Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Bob Dubsky explains how communication helps Luke Air Force Base work with urban development.**